



Guardian Challenge

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News Briefs

Base beaches

Vandenberg's Surf, Wall and Minuteman Beaches are open Fridays through Mondays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. for recreational access. The boundaries are marked and citations are issued to people who enter closed areas. For beach access or status information, call the Beach Hotline at 606-6804.

Safety first

Safety is everyone's responsibility. Throughout the competition and social events, look out for each other. Always have a designated driver before anyone starts drinking.

Accessing cash

Automated teller machines are located at Vandenberg Federal Credit Union. The Base Exchange also has a check-cashing service. The VFCU and the BX are on Community Loop off California Blvd.

Food options

The Breakers Dining facility is open from 5 to 8 a.m., 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., and 10:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.

The Pacific Coast Club dining room is open from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. Their bar is open from 4 p.m. to 2 a.m. Also at the club is Foggio's Pizzeria, which is open from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4:30 to 9 p.m.

The golf clubhouse is open from 6 a.m. to dusk. Burger King is open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The Base Exchange food court is open from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Welcome GC teams

By Gen. Lance Lord
Air Force Space Command commander

On behalf of the entire Air Force Space Command Team, welcome warriors to the world's premier space and missile competition – Guardian Challenge 2002!

You should feel a great sense of pride and accomplishment in being selected to represent your organization.

For 35 years we've been bringing together the best of the best...first at Curtain Raiser then Olympic Arena and, since 1994, Guardian Challenge as we have come to know it. Our mission has evolved over the years and so has our competition, but one thing remains constant – the caliber of the space, missile and support professionals that represent

us during this week and every day as we perform our mission as "Guardians of the High Frontier."

The events of Sept. 11 have weighed heavily on this nation and our Air Force. But once again our great nation has answered the call to arms with a display of unity and power that has sent an indelible message to the world – America will not succumb to terrorism and the land of the free is stronger than ever.

Let there be no doubt, what you accomplish over the five days of the competition reaches far beyond the boundaries of Air Force Space Command. We're proud to be able to

continue the tradition of Guardian Challenge this year and demonstrate to allies and adversaries alike that we are the premier air and space force.



Changes

Guardian Challenge helo comp scaled back

By Capt. Adriane Craig
GC public affairs

The Air Force Space Command UH-1N Hueys won't be taking to the skies as previously planned this week during Guardian Challenge 2002.

The command's helicopters recently underwent inspections for possible cracks in the tail boom. Because a fleet stand down occurred so close to the competition, officials determined the best action was to forego the flying portion.

AFSPC helicopters have since returned to flying status.

This was the first year that both the navigation and hover events were to be flown during competition week at Vandenberg. In past years the navigation event was completed at a neutral site weeks in advance. Only the hover competition – where crews navigate a bucket of water suspended from the airframe through an obstacle course – took place here.

Col Mark Lilevjen, the competition commander for this year, noted that the

pilots do have a role in the remaining portion of the helicopter competition – the aircraft generation and re-configuration event.

This exercise, which requires crews to reconfigure the aircraft from one mission setup to another, includes a preflight inspection by the aircrew. They must identify problems to the maintenance crew before the aircraft is "cleared for flight."

"It is unfortunate for the crews who trained so hard," said Lilevjen, "but it was the right decision."

Guardian Challenge mascots add color, *spirit* to competition

The most notorious Guardian Challenge participants are the team mascots. Each year their familiar faces speckle the flightline, competition venues and, of course, the banquet.

Among the characters are two new faces – the Malmstrom Grizzlies and the Buckley Panthers. Keep your eyes open for these new mascots, as well as the old familiars.

The following is a guide to each team's mascot, why they were chosen and how to recognize them:

21st Space Wing Knights

Mascot: *Iron Mike*

In 1997, the 21st Space Wing adopted a figure from the Middle Ages, known as "Iron Mike," to represent the wing's fighting spirit.

The legend of Iron Mike goes back to 1966, when the 317th Fighter Interceptor Squadron at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, adopted a 45-pound suit of armor, complete with helmet, sword and shield, as its mascot.

Iron Mike is dressed in a steel helmet, white cape and robe, carrying a sword and shield.



30th Space Wing Hawks

Mascot: *Hawkman*

Hawkman, the mascot of the 30th Space Wing, symbolizes the proud and majestic bird, the Red-tailed Hawk — common to Vandenberg. The Red-tailed Hawk, a familiar sight soaring the skies of this 99,000 acre base, was selected as the team mascot before the 1994 Guardian Challenge competition.

The raptor is known for its highly skilled hunting prowess, commanding presence, speed and agility in flight. Qualities the 2002 Guardian Challenge Team strive to emulate and project throughout the competition.



45th Space Wing Sharks

Mascot: *Snark the Shark*

Perhaps the most feared mascot of all, the shark is named "Snark" for the early SNARK missile tests at Cape Canaveral.

The theme from the movie "Jaws" will also be heard when the team is in the area during competition.



50th Space Wing Fightin' 50th

Mascot: *The General*

William J. Palmer, a Pennsylvania Quaker and founder of Colorado Springs, was a Civil War veteran. He joined the Pennsylvania Fighting 15th Cavalry and was promoted to the rank of general during the war. During the Battle of Red Hill, he defeated the superior force of the enemy without losing any men, receiving the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The war hero's fighting spirit represents the same in the Fightin' 50th team, and his pioneering spirit reflects what the wing is doing in space—developing new missions and systems and migrating to space.

He wears an authentic Civil War Union uniform with saber and sidearm.



90th Space Wing Wranglers

Mascot: *Warren Wrangler*

The Warren Wranglers represent the Old West and the tradition of the cowboy lifestyle encompassing Wyoming.

The Warren Wranglers epitomize and honor the prestigious tradition of the cowboy — the hard life, the hard work and the spirited heritage of the Old West.

The Wrangler wears traditional cowboy attire.



91st Space Wing Rough Riders

Mascot: *Teddy Roosevelt*

With “Bully stick” in hand, Teddy Roosevelt has come back to lead the Rough Riders. Teddy exemplifies determination and character.

Throughout his life, Teddy refused to settle for “good enough” and wouldn’t accept that attitude in others. A former President of the United States and colonel of the 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry, Teddy was able to get away with a lot, so he is loud and “in your face” as he leads his team in the Bully Yell.

Teddy wears Rough Rider clothing and a recognizable Roosevelt mustache.



310th Space Group Bombardiers

Mascot: *The Bombardier*

The 310th Space Group began as the 310th Bombardment Group, that flew B-25 Mitchell bombers in support of operations in Tunisia, Sicily, Italy, Corsica, Sardinia, France, Austria and Yugoslavia during World War II.

From that the Bombardier was born, full of duty, honor and country. The mascot personifies that fighting spirit by wearing the uniform of that era.



341st Space Wing Grizzlies

Mascot: *Road Kill*

Montana is a rough and rugged country where the grizzly bear is strong, proud and free.

New in 2002, the grizzly is the perfect mascot for the men and women of Wing One – the largest and most powerful missile wing in the Air Force.

Team Malmstrom is proudly serving the nation’s call for a



strong nuclear deterrence. Road Kill represents the men and women who conquered the land, but never tamed it.

“The Gun” is fired to remind us of our warrior past and our strength in the future.

460th Air Base Wing Black Panthers

Mascot: *Buck Lee*

In 1943 Col Robert Crowder, the first 460th commander, held a contest to select the wing’s mascot.

Victor Newbergs’ drawing of the “black panther” was selected as the wing’s mascot as it best depicted the wing’s warfighting mission.

In 2001, the 460th was re-activated at Buckley AFB and the panther was named “Buck Lee” by the wing’s new generation of space warriors.

Radiating supreme power, “Buck Lee” embodies the wing’s strength and spirit. Buck’s muscular frame portrays the power the wing’s bombing crews had over Europe in WW II.

Buck, in jet black symbolizes the secrecy of the wing’s reconnaissance mission over Vietnam and Korea.

Ready to strike, Buck stands vigilant today, against any foe; characterizing the wing’s warfighting mission support and superior customer service to the Front Range Area Defense Community.



Space and Missile System Center

The Space and Missile Systems Center at Los Angeles Air Force Base, Calif., is participating in Guardian Challenge for the first time.

SMC, which realigned under Air Force Space Command in October, has sent a team of observers to Vandenberg to see if the center can be integrated into future competitions.



SOPS, cops from 310th ready to mop up

GC public affairs staff

Reservists are hoping their "above and beyond" efforts will garner them hardware from Guardian Challenge 2002.

The only reserve unit to compete, the 310th Space Group from Schriever Air Force Base, Colo., has competitors from the 6th and 7th Space Operations Squadrons as well as security forces personnel vying for top honors.

This is the third year the reserve unit has competed. At last year's Guardian Challenge competition, the 6th SOPS team received the highest score among the satellite operations crews, but lost the Best Space Operations trophy to the 21st Space Wing's Royal Air Force Fylingdales.

The 6th SOPS team includes Majors Mark Hustedt and Mike Ruff, Capt. Anna Stuckwisch, and Tech. Sgt. Ben Ortiz.

The 7th SOPS team is comprised of Capt. Tang Hung, Tech. Sgts. Dan Lehmann, Kim Garcia, and Marv Gielen, and Senior Airman Bob Kerr.

The security forces team includes Staff Sgts. Peter Cozzitorto and Jason Hall as well as Senior Airmen Scott Johnston, Aaron Kerschner, and Brian McCain.

The teams hope to secure Best Space Operations and Best Security Forces trophies.

"We have a proud heritage and we look forward to the opportunity to continue the legacy," said Maj. Mark Hustedt, flight commander for the 6th SOPS.

New logo

Vandenberg artist gives GC fresh image

By Airman 1st Class Harold Barnes III
GC public affairs

Modern tradition coupled with historic patriotism, no, this isn't an episode of Trading Spaces or the opening commentary for a Discovery Channel show.

It's the new Guardian Challenge logo, and one of Vandenberg's own mixed old and new to make a trademark for today.

"The logo is the banner with which all things GC happen," said Staff Sgt. Jesse Justice, 30th Communication Squadron graphic illustrator and father of the new Guardian Challenge logo.

"The logo was changed to give GC a new and unified look and feel." Justice said he wanted to add to "an already exciting event" while giving the logo a modern update.

Desire for a change is one thing, but making a change means finding a starting point. For Justice it was a love for tradition. He found images of yesteryear in things like Air Force patches, shields and the "Hap Arnold" Army Air Corps seal.

"I wanted to give a solid link to our history by emulating the Army Air Corps symbol," said Justice. "I wanted to capture the country's patriotism, illustrate how important Space Command is to the Air Force." He accomplished his goal by intermingling the seal with Space Operator badge elements.

Justice said the logo took a few months to complete from initial conceptual sketches to what people see today.

"It really is great to see it so well received throughout Space Command," said Justice. "Opportunities on this scale don't happen to artists that often."

With the logo popping up everywhere he's looked for the last few weeks he said, "It's a thrill."

"There were tons of drafts of the GC logo created," said Justice. That's normal with each change go through the chain of command with suggestions and modifications.

Justice was a comic book illustrator in the early 90's. "Even after having my own book and working for a few years in comics I found out the Air Force had better



Space operator functional badge elements have been added to update the logo. Deltas form the star, and a globe with orbits. Red, white and blue wings represent patriotism, with the Pentagon adorning the star.

pay for artists." He said he continues to keep his creative juices flowing with projects for the Air Force and in civilian sector.

"For us graphics guys, this is what it's all about," said Justice.

Guardian Challenge 2002

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